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BT

UNCLAS JUNE 3

CINCPAC FOR POLAD.

DEPTel 2755 AND EMBTEL 4007.

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State Department review completed

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IN CONNECTION SECOND PARAGRAPH OF EMBTEL 4007, SENATOR DODD MAY BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING REPORT ON FIERCE ATTACK ON CHAU HIEP BY VC LAST NIGHT:

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AT ABOUT 0055 JUNE 3 HEAVILY ARMED VC FORCE ESTIMATED AT TWO MAIN FORCE COMPANIES (250 TO 300 MEN) REINFORCED BY HEAVY WEAPONS, INCLUDING AT LEAST FOUR 57MM RECOILLESS RIFLES AND 5 MACHINE GUNS, SIMULTANEOUSLY ATTACKED CHAU HIEP FROM FOUR

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DIRECTIONS. HAMLET'S DEFENDERS CONSISTED OF ITS OWN POPULAR FORCE UNIT OF AROUND 80 MEN PLUS 63-MAN COMPANY OF 30TH RANGER BATTALION. VC SUCCEEDED IN OVERRUNNING THE OUTPOST DEFENDING BRIDGE OVER MAIN CANAL AT WESTERN EDGE OF HAMLET AND THEN ENTERED AND HELD WESTERN PORTION OF HAMLET FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR. DURING THIS TIME THEY ATTACKED AND THREW HAND GRENADES IN EACH HOUSE THEY COULD REACH BELONGING TO PF MEMBERS OR IN WHICH MEMBERS OF

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RANGER COMPANY WERE QUARTERED. VC WERE NOT ABLE TO OVERRUN REST OF HAMLET. IN COURSE OF FIGHTING 9 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 35 WOUNDED. ARMED HELICOPTERS AND FLARE SHIP WERE CALLED IN TO SUPPORT HAMLET'S DEFENDERS AND TOGETHER THEY FINALLY FORCED VC TO BEGIN WITHDRAWAL ABOUT 0215 AND BY 0230 VC HAD BEEN DRIVEN FROM HAMLET, THOUGH SPORADIC FIRING CONTINUED FOR SOME TIME THEREAFTER.

CHAU HIEP'S POPULAR FORCES LOST 7 KIA AND 16 WIA (6 SERIOUSLY), 2 HOME-MADE MORTARS, 1 BAR, 3 SUB-MACHINE GUNS, 9 CARBINES, ONE M-1 RIFLE AND ONE ENFIELD RIFLE PLUS 2 HT-1 RADIOS. RANGERS LOST 1 KIA, 1 WIA, 1 CARBINE AND ONE M-1. ALTHOUGH VC CASUALTIES CANNOT BE CONFIRMED, INHABITANTS SAID MANY WERE KILLED BY DEFENDERS AND BY ARMED HELICOPTERS AND VC DEAD ARE ESTIMATED

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AT 50.

US ADVISORS STATE THIS WAS FIERCELY FOUGHT BATTLE IN WHICH

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